Shoreline
Vol. 7, No. 4 • Fall 2000
Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury State University

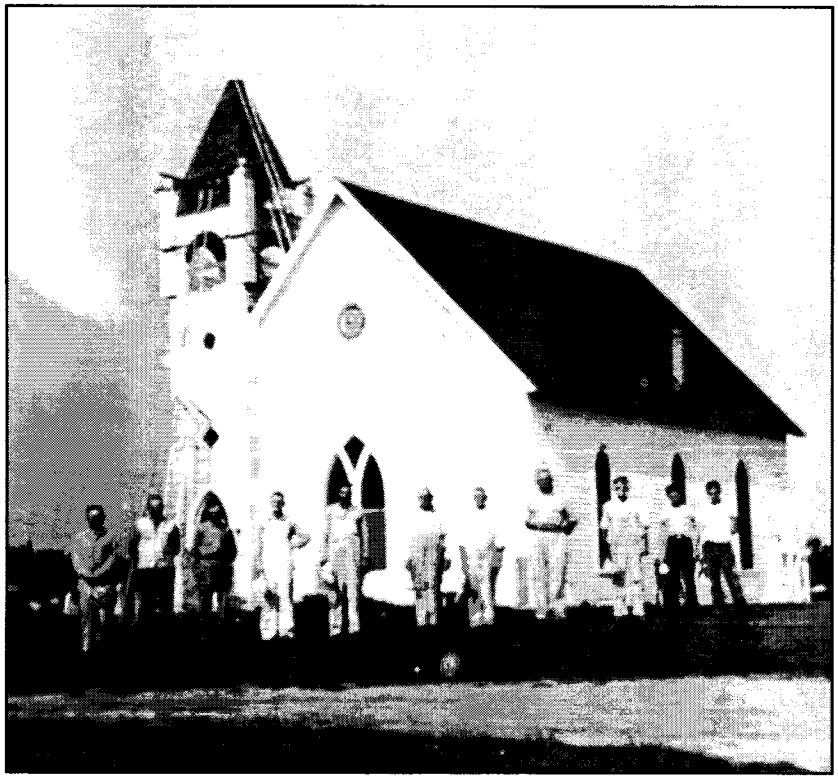
St. Peter's Methodist-Episcopal Church

New Collection

by Jill Nock Jeffery

The Nabb Research Center is pleased to announce the recent acquisition of an extensive collection of church records from St. Peter's Methodist-Episcopal Church in Hopewell, MD. We would like to express our gratitude to the collection's donors, Charlotte Daugherty and Patsy Somers, who, by their generous contribution, have made these records available to all of us to use and research. Although the records are incomplete, they contain information about the parish from the late 1700s through the 1960s. As one of the first Methodist churches on the Eastern Shore sanctioned by Francis Asbury, a disciple of John Wesley and one of the founding fathers of Methodism, St. Peter's is an important historic and religious landmark.

In the colonial era, the Delmarva Peninsula was key to the growth and development of the Methodist faith. In fact, Francis Asbury referred to the Eastern Shore as "his preacher's garden." In 1784, one out of three American Methodists lived on the Shore. According to church records, the first Methodists in Somerset County met in the home of William Miles. As the congregation grew, Miles Chapel was erected in 1782 on the present day St. Peter's site and named in honor of Miles who generously opened his home to his fellow worshippers. E.C. Hallman's book, *The Garden of Methodism*, indicated that Francis Asbury preached at Miles Chapel on 13 November, 1786, and attended a quarterly Methodist meeting held there in 1792.



This photograph was taken circa 1954 when St. Peter's was being repainted. The back of the photograph indicates that the volunteers were Wm. Bradshaw, Edwin Sterling, John T. Long, Clifton Taylor, Mr. Pierce, Rev. Diehl, Will Nelson, Will Stevenson and "three I can't identify."

An interesting item in the collection is an extensive church history that was written by several of the ministers between 1869 and 1872. In 1869, the pastor, Reverend A. Chandler, wrote, "We know that Annamessex Circuit was formed in the spring of 1783 which then extended from Salisbury taking in all the lower part of Somerset and all of Worcester County and up as far as the head of sound in Delaware."

Chandler's church history also indicated that in 1869 the parish still had the first Bible that belonged to Miles Chapel. It was printed in London in 1768 and was presented to the society by Thos. Robertson, one of the early trustees of the St. Peter's church property. Chandler indicated that in 1827 the following note was written in the Bible regarding an order for Missionary money, "Thirty dollars from St. Peters to educate an African boy to be named Lawrence Laurenson a strong preacher. Thirty dollars from Quindocqua and Curtis' to educate one to be called Wm Wright & thirty dollars from Potato Neck to educate one to be called Wm C. Poulson. We have no knowledge as to what ever became of these boys." How interesting it is that a full 40 years before the Civil War and in the era of religious segregation, a white church was paying for the education of an "African" boy.

Although Chandler indicated that the Bible was in the possession of Edward Daugherty, we do not know if it is extant today. Anyone who may know the disposition of the

Continued on page 2

Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture
Salisbury State University
1101 Camden Ave.
Salisbury, Maryland 21801
410-543-6312 • fax: 410-677-5067
e-mail: rcdhac@ssu.edu
http://nabbhistory.ssu.edu

Rebecca F. Miller - Director
Corinne Les Callette - Research Assistant
Iris Powell - Web Creator/Accessioner
Donna Messick - Secretary

Monday 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Tuesday - Friday 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Closings
November 23, 24, 2000
December 18 - January 1
January 13 - 15, 2001

T. Aaron Horner
Jill Jeffery

Andy Doyle
Lindsay Read

B. Miles Barnes
Pauline M. Batchelder (secretary)
Jane D. Bunting
Marie Califiura
Richard Cooper
Richard Crumbacker
Thomas H. Fooks, V
George W. Gering (chair)
Jeff Hatfield
R. Patrick Hayman
James L. Henderson
John E. Jacob Jr.
Frances Latimer
Jean Mihalyka
Edward H. Nabb
Kathryn Washburn Niskanen
David G. Nutter
Jeffrey Pilchard
Clara Small
Polly Stewart
Patricia J. Taylor
G. Ray Thompson
Charles C. Thornton Sr.
Robert Withey
Gordon E. Wood Sr. (vice-chair)

Director's Circle $1,000; Benefactor $500;
Business $250; Sustaining $100; Supporting $50;
Annual $25; Newsletter Subscription $12

St Peter's Methodist-Episcopal Church

Continued from page 1

Miles Chapel Bible is encouraged to contact the Nabb Research Center.

St. Peter's church-yard boasts one of the oldest tombstones in the area—that of Mr. John Williams who was born in March 1701 and died in 1787. Visitors to the cemetery will find a bronze plaque on the site to mark its existence.

In 1817, another St. Peter's Church was constructed and stood in the corner of the church lot in back of the present building. In accordance with church rules, in 1813 the following trustees deeded the church property to themselves: Thomas Robertson, W. Coulbourn, Joshua Hull, Hance Lawson, Samuel Somers, Job. Moore and James Benson. The lot was later given to the church by Benjamin and Betsy Williams.

The building we know today as St. Peter's was begun in 1850 and completed in 1852. The structure has undergone several renovations over the years, including the removal of the slave gallery, the addition of a recessed area in the back of the pulpit and the relocation of the steeple from the center of the building to the corner. Church records indicated that the church was remodeled in 1901 under the pastorship of George G. Williams for a total cost of $1,950. The photo (page one) was taken when the church was being painted in the 1950s.

St. Peter's merged with Immanuel Methodist Church in October 1965 due to the declining population in the area and the trend toward larger churches. According to the writings of Mrs. Reba Long, longtime church secretary, Hopewell, which is located near Crisfield, was a thriving community 50 years ago, with a large strawberry market, post office, railroad station, school and several stores. Today, the town consists of one store, a few scattered homes and the St. Peter's landmark. In an effort to preserve the site, the Maryland Historical Society named St. Peter's Methodist-Episcopal Church a historic landmark and erected a sign in the church-yard signifying the church's contributions to the history and religious progress in the area.

Among the numerous records from the church that have been added to the collections at the Nabb Research Center are church membership rolls from the mid-1800s through the mid-1900s, baptism records from 1857-1869 and 1906-1909, marriage records from 1857-1874, a roll of ministers from 1782-1984, Sunday school records from the mid-1800s and from 1926-1962 and many more including numerous bank records. There are extensive lists of names and families in the church records.

The collection also contains a fascinating account written by Mrs. Reba Long regarding the parishioners' efforts to raise $10,000 for the perpetual care of their cemetery. Beginning in 1947, a committee was formed for the purpose of improving the church grounds and cemetery which were then in "a wilderness of brush, bushes, briars, weeds and trees and roots." During the summers of 1947 and 1948, the parishioners surveyed the lots and sent out form letters requesting contributions from family members so that they could fund a trust to ensure the future care of the cemetery. Through their efforts, over $6,000 was raised for the cemetery account. Patsy Somers, one of the donors of the collection, indicated that the cemetery is now under perpetual care. The notes on the perpetual care fund indicate the names of the individuals buried in the cemetery as well as names of relatives far and near who were contacted regarding the fundraiser.

Although St. Peter's merged with Immanuel Methodist Church, services are still held at the historic site during June, July and August and on Thanksgiving and Easter. The St. Peter's Methodist-Episcopal Church collection highlights the need for the continuous preservation of important church records.

Anyone who may have church or other official records reposing in the attic should give serious consideration to the need to house those records in a public location where researchers can have access to them. Church records, in particular, contain important information about births, marriages and deaths that often cannot be found in public records. In addition, these types of records can be analyzed to glean information about race relations, mortality and birth rates and the economic development of the area. If you have any questions about the care or preservation of your church records or if you are interested in donating records to our collections, please feel free to contact Nabb Research Center Director Becky Miller.

People

New History Professor

The Nabb Research Center would like to extend a warm welcome to SSU's new History Department professor, Dr. Melanie Perreault. A Wisconsin native, Perreault received her undergraduate degree from Lawrence University in Wisconsin and her doctoral degree from The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA. Her areas of expertise are Colonial America and Atlantic world history.

Perreault's doctoral dissertation, *First Contact: Early English Encounters with Natives of Russia, West Africa and the Americas, 1513-1614*, compared the impact English first contact had on different native peoples.

Prior to taking her position at SSU, Perreault was a history professor at the University of Central Arkansas for three years. Her hobbies include playing soccer and guitar and mowing her lawn (because of our rainy summer). This semester, Perreault's graduate seminar in Chesapeake and mid-Atlantic history is meeting at the Nabb Research Center as part of the graduate program's focus to help SSU students produce original historical research. The students are learning about the history of the region during the Colonial and Revolutionary periods with particular emphasis on the diversity of experiences among different groups.

SSU Students Paving the Way for GIS Tracking of Worcester Land Records

Two SSU undergraduates, Sarah Jones and Sarah Mann, have helped to pave the way for GIS tracking of Worcester County land tracts that were patented in the 17th century. The students created a database of the land records so that the data can be used to develop a GIS program. GIS, which stands for "Geographical Information Systems," is a computer program that allows users to spatially analyze the locations of sites on maps.

An initial GIS program was created in the fall of 1999 by SSU graduate student Kevin Henry. When Jones and Mann began transferring Henry's work into a GIS format they realized that the data needed further analysis and undertook the effort to conduct a more in-depth study of the land records to pinpoint the exact locations of the various land tracts. Using Ruth Dryden's abstracts of old Somerset County land records as a basis, the students selected over 700 properties located in modern day Worcester County in what was once the Bogerternorton, Pocomoke, Mattapany and Annamessex Hundreds. The students plotted each of the tracts onto maps based on geographical descriptions of the properties from the land records. Paul Baker Touart's work, *Along the Seaboard Side*, also provided Jones and Mann with clues as to the locations of the land tracts.

Jones and Mann felt that their methods were fairly successful but cautioned that they did not classify any land tracts without solid proof of the property's location. As a result, some of the tracts still need to be classified. Jones and Mann created a spreadsheet categorizing the various attributes of the land tracts. This information can now be used to develop a GIS program for the early Worcester land records.

Jones, who is from Snow Hill, MD, graduated from SSU with honors in spring 2000. After taking some time off, Jones will enter the graduate program in underwater archaeology at Florida State University in Tallahassee in January 2001. Mann, a native of Pottstown, PA, will graduate from SSU this fall. After graduation, she will be heading to Utah where she plans to work as a counselor in an outreach program that teaches children about the environment.

Graduate Seminar Held this Summer

This summer Dr. G. Ray Thompson, chair of the SSU History Department, conducted a graduate research seminar course, Studies in Early Lower Delmarva: Old Somerset and Her Neighbors on the Lower Eastern Shore in the 17th and Early 18th Centuries. The purpose of the course, which was held at the Nabb Research Center, was to provide the students with an in-depth look at the earliest Delmarva residents, many of whom had migrated to the Shore from Jamestown, VA, in the early 17th century.

Using the primary sources found at the Nabb Research Center, each student created a biographical sketch of an Eastern Shore resident. William Andrews, John/Frances Blower, John/Frances Burdett, Edward Harrington, Elias Hartree, John Holloway, John Major, Hugh Porter, William Stevens, Elias Taylor, George Traveller and John Wilkins were among the ancient planters the students researched. Through their review of the judicial, provincial, church, land and other records, the students were able to piece together the lives of the Shore's founding fathers in remarkable detail.

Although the research focused on specific individuals, it quickly became clear that there was a complex economic and social network operating on the Shore from the earliest days of settlement. The networking among the early residents through business relationships, marriage and familial relationships, and church affiliation disproves the theory of many historians that there was a lack of a cohesive community on the Eastern Shore in the 17th and early 18th centuries. This summer the students saw firsthand that while the geography of the region may have delayed the formation of villages and towns, there was certainly no lack of community among the early residents. Thompson and Nabb Research Center Director Becky Miller hope to publish the students' research in an upcoming fascicle.

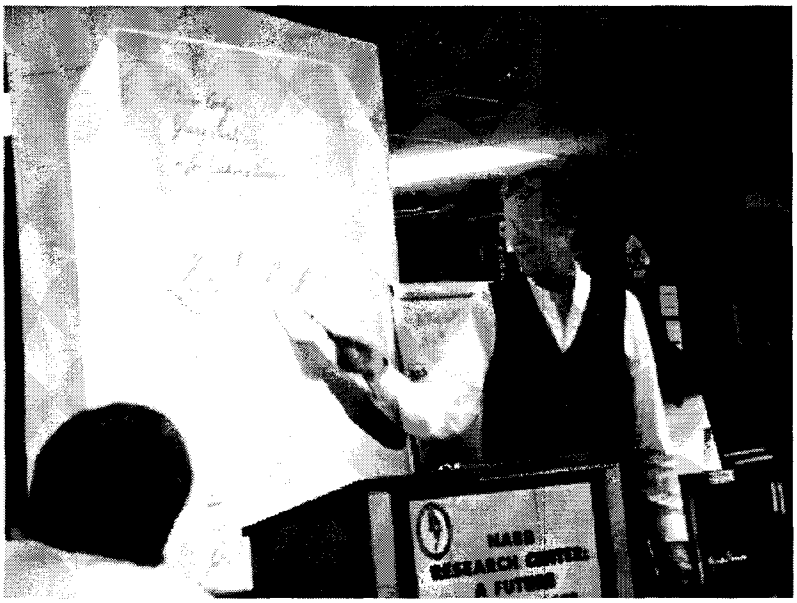
Those of you who have had trouble finding a parking spot at the Nabb Research Center will be happy to hear that the University has now designated the seven parking spaces in front of the building as reserved for Nabb Research Center patrons. Look for the signs the next time you visit the Center!

Shari Handley of Michigan, Web mistress of Somerset and Wicomico counties' Gen-Web sites, organizes an annual Cem-Trek to the Shore, reserving a day for research at the Nabb Center.

Book Review: *Eastern Shore Indians of Virginia and Maryland*

Chincoteague, Nanticoke, Tuckahoe, Accomack, Onancock, Wicomico, and on and on–we know these names came from the Native Americans who inhabited the Eastern Shore at the time of English colonization, but what do we really know about these people and where they are today? In *Eastern Shore Indians of Virginia and Maryland*, Helen C. Rountree and Thomas E. Davidson provide an extensive study of the history and culture of the Indians of Virginia and Maryland's Eastern Shore from A.D. 800 through the time the tribes disbanded in the early 19th century. Apart from its study of Indian society, the book provides a wealth of information about the local ecology and geography prior to white settlement.

Using primary documents, including many court records, Rountree and Davidson provide an account of the traditional lifestyle of Eastern Shore Indians, including an analysis of the complex web of tribal origins and politics. Most of the Delmarva Indians were farmers and fishermen. Unlike the Western Shore tribes who were involved in violent clashes with white settlers, the majority of local Indians were not violently forced off their land, but were slowly decimated through disease and loss of resources. Because the Indian lifestyle required vast tracts of land on which to hunt and gather resources, Rountree and Davidson hypothesized that it was impossible for the Indians to coexist with the white settlers. Eventually, most of the tribes either moved north or were absorbed into English society and their descendants live among us today. *Eastern Shore Indians of Virginia and Maryland* is a wonderful resource for anyone who wants to learn more about local geography, ecology, culture or history.



On Saturday, September 23, the Nabb Research Center participated in SSU's FUNday. The event, which was a festival of games, contest, exhibits and concerts for the University's neighbors, was held as part of SSU's ongoing 75th Anniversary Celebration. At the Nabb Research Center, Dr. G. Ray Thompson conducted a workshop for the local community which included an introduction to genealogical sources and interpretation of handwriting in colonial documents.

Volunteers!

As always, we would like to take time to thank all of the volunteers who help to make the Nabb Research Center the important resource that it is for the preservation of Delmarva history and culture and as a historical laboratory experience for SSU students. In particular, we recognize the efforts of Jane West of La Plata, MD, who is in the process of transcribing the index to our fabulous Ballard Miles collection of field books, survey records and plats done by W. Ballard Miles in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties. These valuable land records provide information to current surveyors as well as attorneys and historians. We would also like to thank Dick and Jane Yantis of Ohio who, after a recent visit to the Research Center, have donated several works that include their transcription of the *Worcester County Debt Books, 1745-1755* and a database of Worcester County Estates, 1661-1850. We thank our guest writers, Leonard Garigliano and Don Singleton, who generously contributed captivating articles to the *Shoreline* newsletter this quarter. Finally, we also thank our dedicated volunteers, Catherine Alvara, Polly Batchelder, Fay Brooks, Dr. Ellaline Roy-Macaulay, Jeff Pilchard, Pat Taylor, and Lloyd and Lucy Whitehead who, over the last two months, provided over 200 hours of services to the Nabb Center.

Hungary Neck Lecture Well Received

Nabb Research Center Director Becky Miller delivered a two-hour presentation, "Down Hungary Neck: Community History in Microcosm," to a full house of the Lower Delmarva Genealogical Society, on Friday, September 27. Using a large colonial land tract map [Benson map] of the area to which she had added modern roads and names, and names of settlers, creeks, churches and other landmarks, Miller discussed the earliest settlement of Hungary Neck in Somerset County providing anecdotal biographies of pioneers such as Nehemiah Covington, an Indian interpreter, further using as illustration an overhead of her compiled tax list analysis, 1723-1759, of the Hungary Neck settlers, the marriage patterns and the several distinct waves of settlement into the neck.

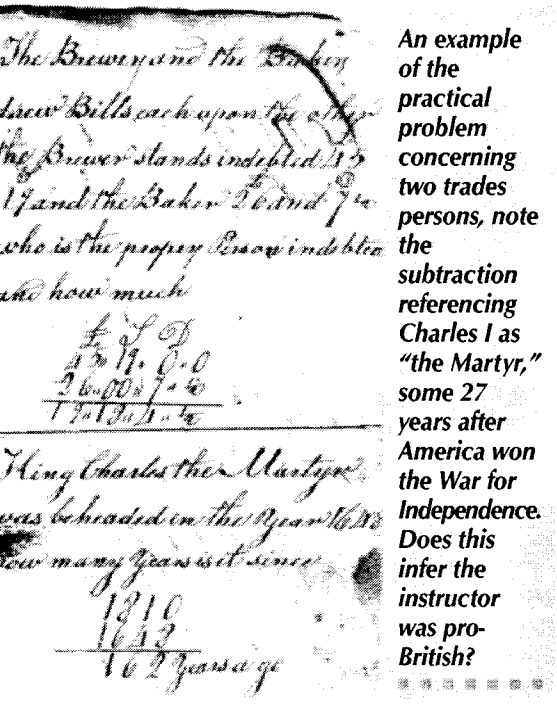
Miller discussed the rise of Methodism and the establishment of the 19th century Methodist and Episcopal churches in the Neck, using an overhead of a Methodist Sunday school list from the Hungary Neck class for an exemplar, and also discussed Civil War era rosters, Union draft lists and the 1890 Veterans' Schedule. Overhead images were used to illustrate each of the types of documents, as well as one for an analysis of the data which included the persons to whom the draftees married and if they appeared in the 1865 voter registration list and/or the 1870 census. Miller stressed the historical methodology of prosographically examining a community in its historical context, claiming more genealogical information can be gleaned by such methods. The methodology illustrated by Miller can be extended to any area on the Peninsula. The Nabb Research Center has all of the primary materials needed to conduct extensive community examinations.

Spotlight on Collections

Old Ledger Educates Us As Well

by Becky Miller

John Whitney—We wonder exactly who he was and what became of him. A great niece recollects only being told that some of the Whitney family went to Canada. A recent donation of a photocopied 12 October, 1809-9 August, 1810 school ledger states in several places, "John Whitney his Cyperin book" [sic]. The donor, Lynne Rentschler of Princess Anne, reported that the ledger, consisting of vellum sheaves hand-sewn into a leather binding, had been in her family for several generations and that she recently received it from her octogenarian great-aunt Margaret White, who told her that Whitney was, she thought, a brother to her great-grandmother, Drusilla Whitney Green. Fortunately, this helps to establish provenance of the ledger, as research indicates no trace of a John Whitney in Somerset County records. But for the evidence of his ciphering book, this fellow did not exist. This branch of the Whitney family lived in Mt. Vernon, having moved there from the Oriole area of Somerset County in the mid-19th century. That the ledger descended through the family there is no doubt. On one of the pages is written "James S. Greene July 17 1852." Greene (1825-1895) was the son of Drusilla Whitney Green and father of Margaret White's mother.



An example of the practical problem concerning two trades persons, note the subtraction referencing Charles I as "the Martyr," some 27 years after America won the War for Independence. Does this infer the instructor was pro-British?

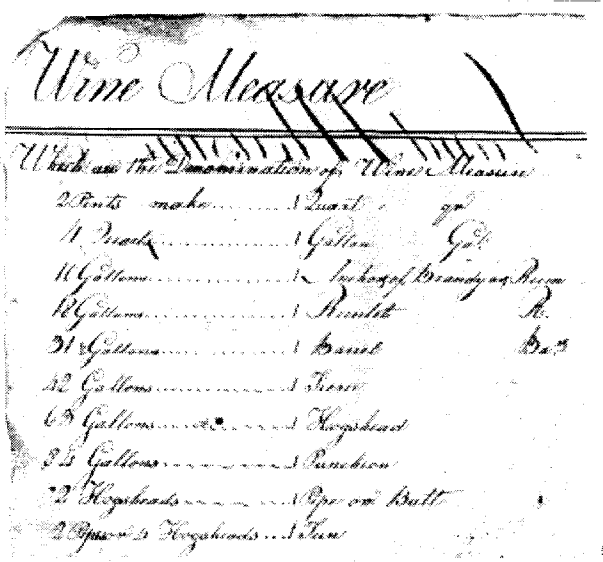
This interesting document provides insight as to the type of educational training early 19th century Somerset Countians received. The child attended school and used a slate on which to pursue his lessons, but then, employing his best calligraphic script, copied the data learned on to precious paper which was then bound into a volume such as the one we received. On one page, we see where Whitney may have been in a hurry as the initial part of the entry is in calligraphy and the remainder of the sentence is in quite ordinary handwriting. The bound copies of lessons learned would be kept as a reference as it contained all the measures then in use, which were many.

There are so many strange and unique entries, such as a "Pence Table" which shows the British pound conversion of such various monies as a moidore, guinea, crown, Jacobus, Carolus, Mark, Angel and Noble. Then there are troy weights, apothecaries weights (ever heard of a scruple?), long measure (3 barlycorns makes one inch), cloth measure (three-quarters of a yard equals one Flemish ell, five-quarters of a yard equals one English ell) and many other units of measurement which we do not use today.

The mathematical problems are all word problems: "A Man hath 6 Bags of Hops the first weighs 2 qts 14 and each of the rest weighs 14 more[.] Quantity hath he in the Whole" and then the addition is shown. Or, "A man dying left his estate worth 1000 betwixt his wife & sons viz To his wife 1/3 to his eldest son 1/4 and the remainder to two second and third share and share alike What is the share of each Anfw [sic] the wife L333 D6 D.8 The first son L250 The second and third sons L202S6D3 each[.]" Other equations concern prices of short cloaks, beaver hats, pounds of tea, herring, cheese, tobacco, Holland and ginger, merchants having a ship in company, yards of Cambrick and broadcloth or a jack of wool.

Throughout the ledger, there are short poems, obviously doodled:

"John Whitney is my name and single is my Life. How happy will that young girl be that I get for a wife & God give me grace herein to look not only to looks but underneath. John W is my Name and single is his station and I want a young girl with a good Plantation."



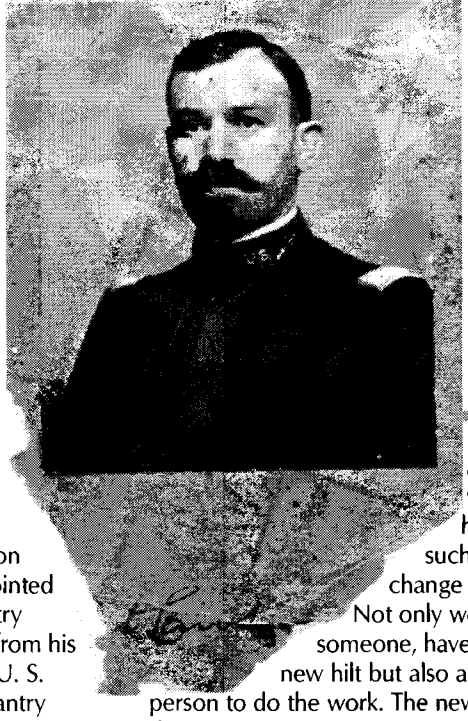
Note the unusual (to us) units of measure. We often see "runlet" in old estates, but who knew it was 18 gallons?

Items such as Whitney's cipher ledger allow us to see the level of education provided in the county. It is interesting to realize that the mathematical problems are all concerned with practical application of principles learned as opposed to merely figuring equations as we do today. The problems were ones that a young man of a certain station would encounter in everyday life, such as, "Factors Allowances commonly called Commission or Provision," concerning computation from merchants to their factors or agents "beyond the sea in the buying or per cent according to the Custom of the Country where the Factor resides." We think this ledger will be invaluable to our hundreds of students as they search for the definitions of now defunct units of measure and other archaic terms while they transcribe estate inventories for the various classes that utilize our facility.

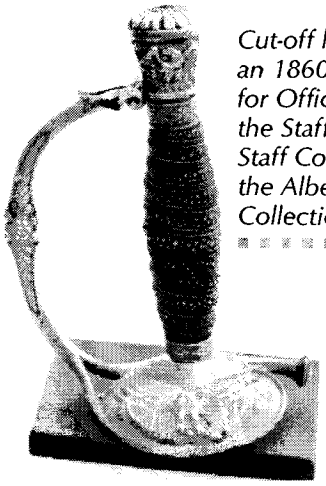
Items such as this window into historic educational practices are accessioned almost daily at the Nabb Research Center. These are invaluable tools for students, scholars and other researchers into America's history.

The Regulation Swords of Captain Albert Laws

By Leonard J. Garigliano



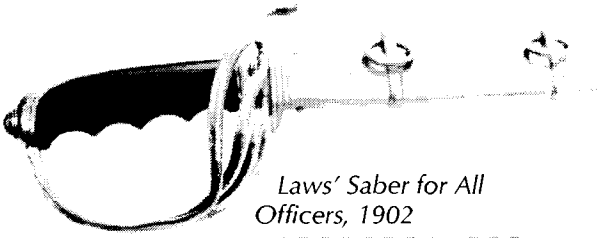
Laws wearing the insignia of the 24th U. S. Infantry in a photo he signed and presented to his brother, T. E. Laws



Cut-off hilt of an 1860 Sword for Officers of the Staff and Staff Corps from the Albert Laws Collection

Albert Laws entered the United States Military Academy from the Eastern Shore in 1889. Upon graduation on 12 June, 1893, Laws "... was appointed by request to the 24th U. S. Infantry where he remained until death" (from his tombstone inscription). The 24th U. S. Infantry was one of four Black infantry regiments in the United States Army. He served with them during the Spanish American War as a regimental quartermaster. First Lt. (promoted 6 April, 1898) Laws then went with the regiment when they were sent to replace volunteer troops during the Philippine Insurrection that ended in July of 1902. He was appointed major in the 35th U.S. Volunteer Infantry on 5 July, 1899, while that regiment was in the Philippines. His promotion to captain in the regular army occurred on 2 February, 1901. On May 2, 1901, he rejoined the 24th U. S. Infantry, having been mustered out of the 35th U.S. Volunteers. (Heitman, Vol. 1, page 619)

U.S. Army regulations of the 1890s required that officers wear the 1860 Sword for Officers of the Staff and Staff Corps. Sword collectors today call it the 1860 Staff and Field Officers' Sword. This pattern of sword, housed in the Nabb Research Center and identified as having belonged to Laws, presents some interesting characteristics. At first it was thought to be a pattern not previously observed. Evidence now supports that Laws had the sword remodeled. When cleaning and preserving the sword it was noted that the blade had been reversed. The tang, the part that comes through the top of the sword and is peened over to hold the blade to the hilt, looked as though it was not original. The final, and most convincing piece of evidence, resulted from finding an almost unused hilt from an 1860 Staff and Field Officers' Sword in the large collection of items that belonged to Laws. That hilt is cleanly cut from its blade and is missing the hinged reverse counterguard, and the designs on the ferrule match those on the scabbard rings of Laws' sword. It now seems very likely that Laws had that hilt removed from his regulation sword and another added. Why would Laws have ordered such a major change in a sword? Not only would he, or someone, have to find the new hilt but also a competent person to do the work. The new hilt also does not have a reverse counterguard that many officers found uncomfortable when wearing the sword. We know from family oral history, his sword belt, also in the collection, and his uniform, in another local museum collection, that he was a small person. Three belts in the collection have waist measurements of between 30 and 32 inches. Two have extra holes punched into them to fit a smaller waist. We can, therefore, surmise that the alterations he had done to the sword reduced the size of the hilt to more comfortably fit him. At first it was thought that Laws was short and thin. However, his officers' sword belt has extremely long carrying straps and both of his regulation swords show little, if any wear on their drags. Based upon this evidence he was probably very tall and thin.



Laws' Saber for All Officers, 1902

Laws' 1860 Sword for Officers of the Staff and Staff Corps

When Capt. Laws returned from the Philippines in 1902, U. S. Army regulations had changed. The 1860 Sword for Officers of the Staff and Staff Corps would now be replaced by the 1902 Saber for All Officers (except Chaplains). The Nabb Research Center is fortunate to also have this pattern of sword from the Capt. Albert Laws Collection. This sword exhibits characteristics of early regulation models. It is marked "Horstmann Company, Philadelphia, PA," has a horn grip and is nickel-plated over a non-ferrous metal. Most important is the small panel on the lower third of the blade in the fuller with the etched name, "Albert Laws." Unfortunately, the etching process also removed the protective nickel plating in that small area and some corrosion has occurred making his name difficult to read.

Laws died in 1908. Assigned to a new post after returning from another tour of the Philippines, he and two other captains had spent a long day going over official papers. At about 10 p.m. on Friday, April 3, he retired to his quarters. There he disrobed and, it was thought, needed to return to his office for something. In the darkened building, also unfamiliar to him, he apparently stubbed his toe on the newel post, tripped and fell to the first floor. His skull was fractured, his brain lacerated and his big toe almost torn from his body. He died the next day at 3 p.m. without regaining consciousness. (*The Wicomico News*, Vol. XXIII, No. 8, 9 April, 1908, page 1.) He is buried in the family cemetery on Laws Road in Wicomico County.

Above: Gravestone of Laws in the family cemetery on Laws Road

Leonard J. Garigliano is a Salisbury State University professor emeritus and former public school science teacher. At SSU he taught science methods and research courses. He has been a sword collector since his teenage years.

In Search of Long Hill

by Donald L. Singleton, Ph.D.

Long Hill c. 1960 - Wetipquin, MD. Photograph courtesy of the Orlando Wootten Collection.

Long Hill Plantation was established by one of the first families to immigrate to Somerset County. These adventurous and hardy settlers were drawn north from Virginia into the wilds of Maryland, Lord Baltimore's relatively new, proprietary colony, by Baltimore's offer of land for the taking. Settlers received land in turn for transporting family, friends or servants into the colony and paid only a small annual quit rent in return. James Dashiell, his wife Ann, his son James and a niece immigrated with David Spence in 1663, and in return, Dashiell received half of a one-thousand-acre grant called Despense. The family lived first at Despense, located on the south side of the Wicomico River across from the present town of Whitehaven. They then moved to the north side of the river to Meeches Right, a tract near the head of Wetipquin Creek. In 1671, Dashiell purchased Long Hill, a 200-acre tract of land near the mouth of Wetipquin Creek and the present small town of Tyaskin. He bought it from Samuel Jackson for four-thousand pounds of tobacco.

Several years ago, I moved to Long Hill as caretaker. The plantation had been purchased by Don and Ingrid Graham, descendants of the Dashiells through the Collier line, who were in process of restoring the 18th century home. The Grahams already had a good deal of information about Long Hill and had expert evaluations in hand that provided good evidence for the builder and the date of construction of the home. Much of the information about Long Hill was contained in the three volume, *Dashiell Family Records,* compiled by Benjamin J. Dashiell and published 1928-1932 (Sun Printing Office, Baltimore, MD). Mrs. Graham asked me if I would poke about and see what other information on Long Hill was available. A search of the local libraries and the Nabb Research Center indicated that Long Hill had a long and rich history. The Dashiell family was intimately involved in the early history of Maryland through government and military service and intermarriage with almost every other family of importance in Somerset County. It seemed like a straight forward enough task, but as I began to dig into the material I had collected, I discovered the proverbial fly in the ointment. Dashiell placed the building of Long Hill at the end of the 17th century and named the carpenter who built the home. This did not square with evidence taken directly from the home which indicated that it was built mid-18th century. How had Dashiell dated the home? How had he come to believe he knew the carpenter's name who built the home? Alas, he left us no citations for these data, and if the date of the home was in error, how much of the other data on Long Hill was unreliable?

In addition to the information in the *Family Records* a number of other publications contained descriptions or information about Long Hill, some apparently dependent on the *Family Records,* some utilizing tradition or unknown sources. My favorite of these descriptions is found in a set of weighty historical tomes which convolutes both information from the *Family Records* and sources unknown; thus, the worst of both worlds. The anomalies in the *Family Records* in no way diminishes the work done by Dashiell. Anyone who has visited the Maryland Historical Society Library in Baltimore and waded through the 26 boxes of handwritten material he collected simply has to come away a little awestruck. He did an enormous amount of work on the Dashiell family, making my task immeasurably easier. But now I was gun-shy; for critical material about Long Hill, I had to check original sources. It is, after all, called *re-search* for a reason.

The search also reminded me that, given the number of people interested in the Dashiell family history, the level of interest in Long Hill and the richness of its history—if I did nothing else— I owed my readers careful documentation. They could access these references and draw their own conclusions. After one long and fruitless search at the Nabb Research Center, I was commiserating with Director Rebecca Miller, who, along with her able staff, had tried to help me track down a court record that I surely knew existed, which contained material central to the history of Long Hill, but which had been cited in only a fragmentary way. We had a Liber number, a folio number, the year 1812 and little else. An afternoon's search in all of the logical microfilm records based on the cited information turned up nothing. But the document had to exist. I had long passages from it which William Shakespeare couldn't have invented from whole cloth. We bemoaned the fact that often citations were incomplete and in less formal publications nonexistent, adding to the fun of *re-search.*

Off to the Archives in Annapolis where I spent another whole day searching for the record. A long swim, a hot shower and a long walk later, I decided that I must be looking in the wrong year. We had searched the records in the years on either side of the date, but a vague memory of something I had read told me that one of the land transactions described in the citation had occurred in 1816. The next morning I was standing at the Archive door when it opened and had the staff members look for a matching Liber number for 1816. Voila! The very first document pulled was the one I was after. It was a treasure trove of information about Long Hill; the payoff for the hunt.

I have spent the better part of three summers trying to sort out these little mysteries. Often when I was sure that I knew everything there was to know about Long Hill, a new mystery would pop up, and I was off again. I began to compare my research to a radio drama from my youth, *The Chicken Heart That Ate Chicago.* A tiny chicken heart that refused to die on its owner's demise beats relentlessly and slowly begins to grow until it engulfs the city of Chicago. After investing all those days and hours, I have a detailed history of Long Hill, and its history is, with all modesty, extraordinary. The book is in the final throes: the running back and forth behavior, the collecting of final photos, proof reading and design. Is it almost finished–for the third or fourth time? I hope. For as I complete each of the end game tasks I still hear that tiny chicken heart thumping ... lub dub, lub dub, lub dub!

Donald Singleton is a professor of communication arts at Salisbury State University where he teaches broadcasting.

Photograph of George W. Brereton's gravestone in the Antioch Methodist Church Cemetery in Princess Anne, MD

Center Seeks Civil War Information

Veteran Discovered by Obituary

by Jill Nock Jeffery

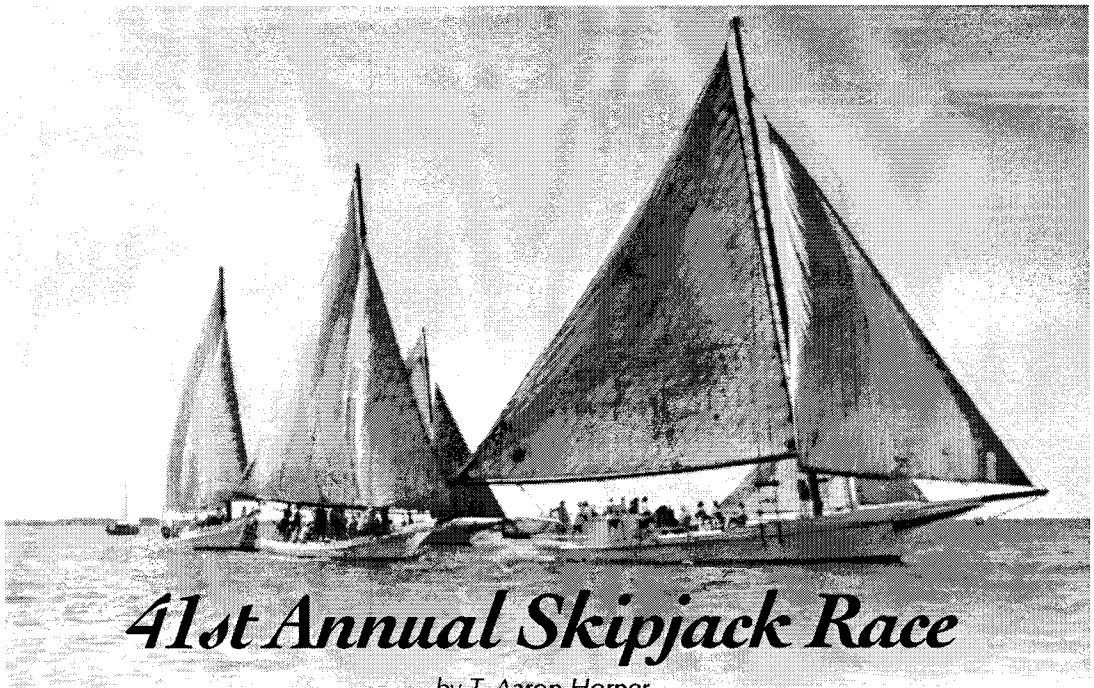
Shortly after the Civil War erupted, the Union government moved into Maryland to prevent any secessionist activity among Marylanders. This was done under the guise of protecting Washington, D.C. Many Eastern Shore residents who were Southern sympathizers broke through Union lines and headed south to volunteer their services in the Confederacy. Some historians believe that more than 25,000 Marylanders served in the Southern lines.

In keeping with their independent nature, some of these Southern volunteers who were from Delmarva joined the Confederate army to serve in Colonel John Mosby's Brigade. Harold R. Manakee wrote in *Maryland in the Civil War* that "men from the state were numerous in Company D of Mosby's Partisans." Mosby, a cavalry soldier and confederate partisan leader, and his men were legendary for conducting guerilla-style raids on Union forces. For over two years, Mosby and his band of irregulars harassed Union troops by seizing supplies, taking prisoners and livestock, destroying transportation lines and disrupting communications. The raids were conducted primarily in the Maryland and Virginia counties closest to Washington and were so pervasive that the area came to be known as "Mosby's Confederacy."

George W. Brereton's obituary in the *Somerset Herald,* dated 31 August, 1920, indicated that the "well-known and highly respected farmer" was a Confederate soldier who served in Mosby's brigade. Brereton, who lived near King's Creek in Somerset County, joined the Southern army with three of his comrades. The men traveled across the Chesapeake Bay into St. Mary's County, and from there they went across the Potomac River into Richmond, VA. Brereton said that he never saw his comrades again after their first night together in Richmond and that he presumed that the men died during the war. The obituary did not mention the names of Brereton's lost comrades who were probably from Somerset or a surrounding county. After the war, Brereton became a deputy sheriff in Somerset County, jailer of the county from 1888 to 1900 and bailiff of the Circuit Court for 15 years.

Another Somerset native, Harrison Phoebus, encountered Mosby from the other side of the line. Phoebus was recruited to serve in the Union army in 1861. Following his discharge from the army in 1863, he worked as a special messenger on a train that ran between Baltimore and Martinsburg, WV. During his four months as a messenger, Phoebus recounted that he was twice captured by Mosby's band of irregulars. In the years after the Civil War, Phoebus relocated to the Norfolk area where he became a prominent businessman and hotel owner. The town of Phoebus, VA, is named for him.

An exact count of the Marylanders who served under Colonel Mosby will probably never be known. Many military documents pertaining to Southern enrollment have either been lost or were destroyed by the Confederate government. Anecdotal evidence, such as that found in newspapers, family Bibles and other primary sources, can sometimes be the only clues to the Civil War experiences of our ancestors. At times this information is difficult, if not almost impossible, to find. For example, we were unable to locate Brereton's name in any Confederate soldier rosters, including *Marylanders in the Confederacy* which has drawn its listing from almost 1,700 different sources. In an effort to research and document Delmarva Civil War veterans—Confederate and Union—the Nabb Research Center will very much appreciate copies of obituaries, letters, diaries and pension papers relating to any Delmarva individual.



41st Annual Skipjack Race

by T. Aaron Horner

For my family, viewing the annual skipjack races off Deal Island from my father's workboat has been a family tradition from as far back as I can remember. The concept of the modern day races began in 1959 when Ben Evans and several skipjack captains decided to revive the workboat races from the 1920s. This year's race seemed reminiscent of last year's—wet and windy. Tropical Storm Dennis brought rain and wind to last year's race; thus only three boats entered. Again, rain threatened Labor Day weekend as it had already put a damper on Sunday's land activities.

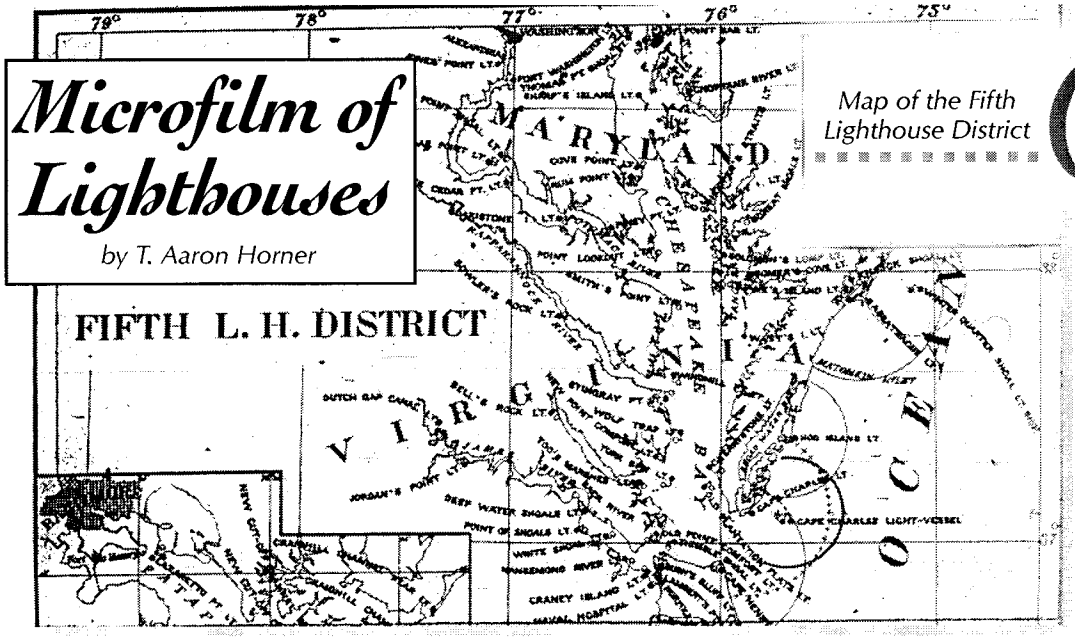
As we left Wenona Harbor that Monday morning, the ominous sky seemed as if rain would fall at any moment. Fortunately, the raindrops held off for an exciting and controversial race. Seven boats would jockey for the coveted first place trophy and prize money. However, the race would be missing two of its prominent skipjack captains—Wade Murphy of the *Rebecca T. Ruark* and Arthur Daniels Jr. of the *City of Crisfield*. Boats filled with spectators lined the racecourse. They came from all around to see the race, including the *Carpe Diem* from—would you believe this—Columbus, MT!

The cool north to northeast breezes allowed for a quick race; it concluded in less than two hours. During the race, Captain Dickie Webster of the *Caleb Jones* pulled ahead, separating himself from the rest of the pack. After making the turn around the buoy off Wenona, Webster, who had won the event last year, saw victory in his sight again. However, as he headed up-sound toward the finish line, Captain Dennis Berg of the *Nathan of Dorchester* surged past the *Caleb Jones*, winning the race by a considerable length. Later at the awards presentation, I learned Webster had been declared the winner by disqualification of Berg's boat. It had come to my attention that the *Nathan* possessed something that no other skipjack had—an engine; thus leaving doubt as whether Berg used the engine or not during the race.

As coordinator of the annual races, the Deal Island-Chance Lion Club oversees all races and land festivities. At Deal Island Harbor, these activities included arts and crafts, games, kayaking, a crane elevator and even a Jeff Gordon Race Car Simulator. The small and large boat-docking contest drew captains from Deal Island, Tangier, Smith Island and Hooper's Island. Other contests include swimming races for boys and girls and a fishing contest. Live music filled the air as a gospel concert was held Saturday evening and the group, Country Mile, provided entertainment for the following night.

Microfilm of Lighthouses

by T. Aaron Horner



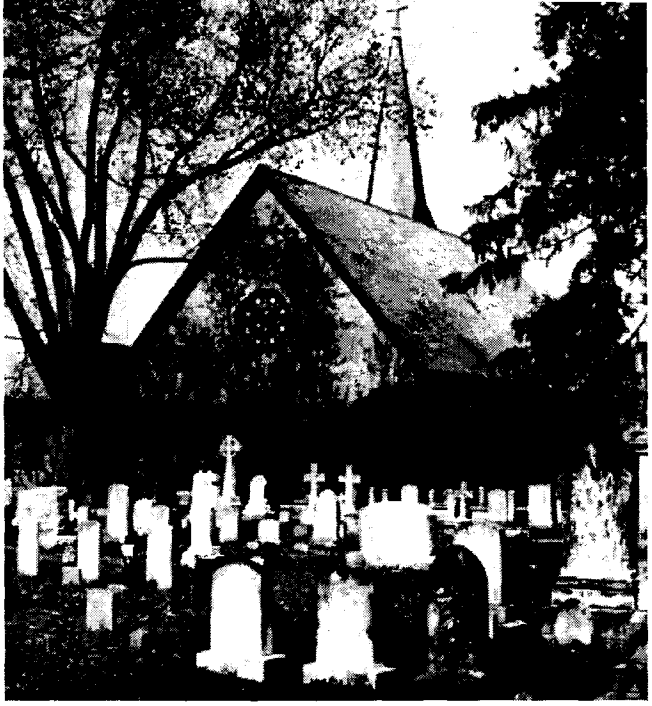
Map of the Fifth Lighthouse District

One of the great things about the Nabb Research Center is the variety of materials donated to us. Unfortunately, our patrons may not know about some of our materials due to its uniqueness. Here at the Center, it is our job to let you know what we have in our collections. This past spring, Edward E. Somers, through his cousin John Somers, donated to us a microfilm on mid-Atlantic lighthouses. Entitled "Registers of Lighthouse Keepers (1845-1912)," the National Archives and Records Service, a division of the General Service Administration, issued this film. As one of five regions covering the United States,

Continued on next page

Celtic Roots

by Lauren Callan



Photograph of Celtic cross taken at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Cemetery in Princess Anne, MD

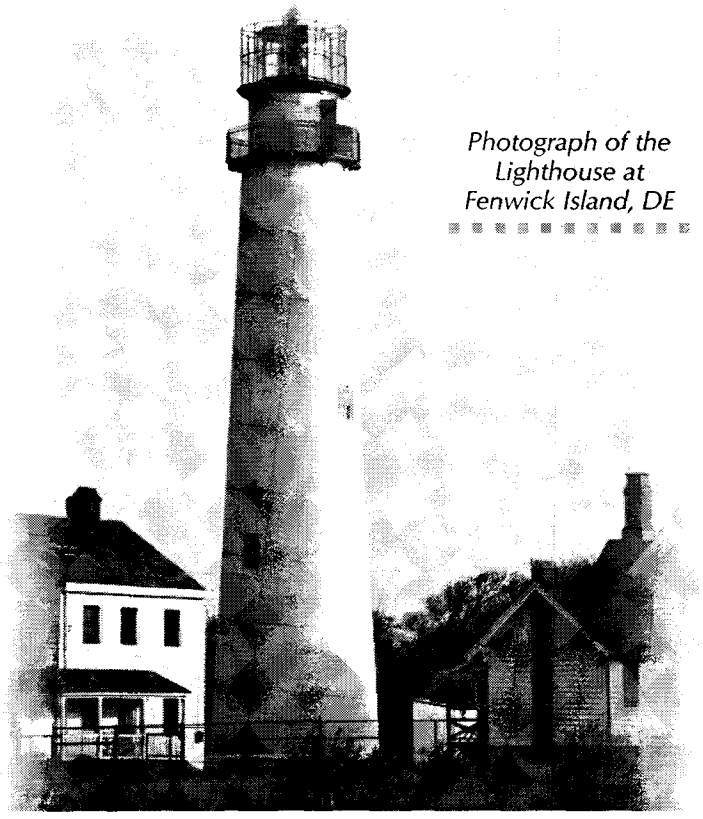
Celtic history is an ancient one, encompassing the thousands of years between the Iron Age and the beginning of Christianity. The source of the Celtic race is located in Eastern Europe. Over a period of several hundred years, Celtic tribes spread throughout Europe, conquering the natives and implementing their own culture. Evidence dating from 500 B.C. places Celts as far as east as Turkey and as far west as Ireland, verifying their imperialistic prowess. The hundred years between the fifth and fourth centuries B.C. are labeled "The Golden Age of the Celts" due to their great military conquests in Spain, Northern Italy and Pannonia.

With the rise of the Roman Empire came the decline of Celtic supremacy. As the Romans marched across Europe, the Celts were pushed further north and west until Britain became their only refuge. Defeated Celtic peoples were incorporated into Roman society and their native languages and customs faded into the past. Because the Romans never invaded Ireland, there remains a strong Celtic influence on contemporary Irish culture.

While the Celts joined together during battle, they valued their independence and rejected the idea of a central authority. Depending on the region, tribes were culturally, rather than politically or economically, united with similar languages and customs. Most preferred to live in small cabins by the sea, region permitting, instead of inland or in elaborate castles. Especially in the British Isles, the unpredictability of the sea and the peoples' dependence on it for sustenance led to the creation of superstition and myth.

Religion linked with superstition was central to Celtic civilization. Druids, who were Celtic priests, were a privileged class due to their significance in the tribe. They provided religious services, as well as arbitration in disputes, and were responsible for preserving history, scholarship and the legal system. The legends associated with Druidism have their roots in Britain, suggesting the Celts adopted the religion when they invaded the land.

Not surprisingly, the Eastern Shore retains traces of Celtic influence which are imbedded in its own culture. Though their owners tend to categorize themselves as English, Welsh surnames are common to this area. Adams, Daniel(s), Davi(e)s, Ellis, Evans, Flewelin, Foulks, Harris, Jacob(s), Jenkins, Jones, L(l)oyd, Maddock, [Maddox], Matthew(s), Meredith, Morris, Nichols, Nicholas, Owen(s), Parker, Phillip(s), Powell, Price, Pri(t)chard, Robert(s), Thomas and Walters are all names found on the Lower Shore that are associated with Celtic heritage. Since the ancestry of Eastern Shore natives is derived substantially from Great Britain, Celtic values have made their way across the Atlantic. The independence, respect for nature and propensity toward superstition, which are defining characteristics of ancient Celtic tribes, are paralleled in the lifestyle of the Shore's watermen. Each year in October a Celtic festival is held at Furnace Town in Worcester County.



Photograph of the Lighthouse at Fenwick Island, DE

Microfilm of Lighthouses

Continued from page 10

the mid-Atlantic region stretches from New York to Virginia. The other regions include New England; North Carolina to Texas; the Great Lakes; and the West Coast, which includes Alaska and Hawaii.

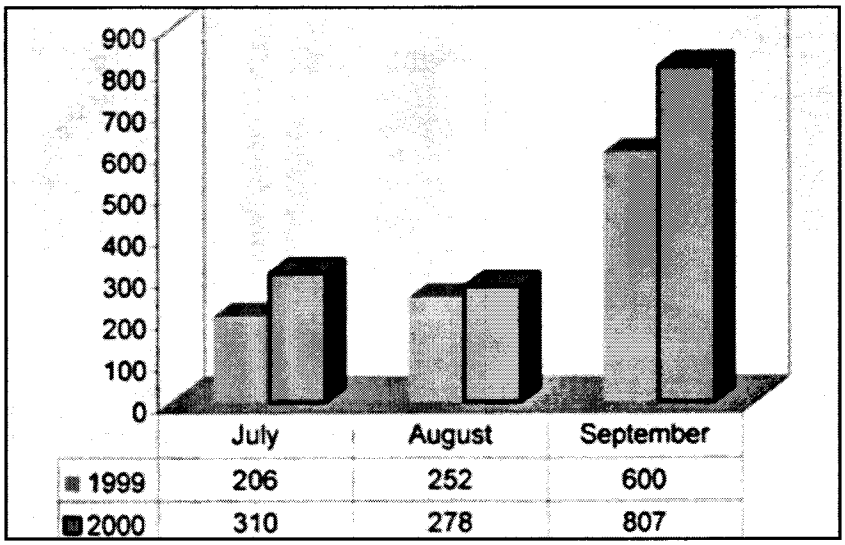
All sorts of information can be found on the microfilm. It includes locations of lighthouses, names of lighthouse keepers and their superintendents, salaries, and dates of appointment and departure (and reasons why they left their post). If keepers had any assistants, they would be listed as well. For those doing family research, one could find information on the birthplace (listed by state) for keepers and whether they served in the Army or Navy. For example, on page 246, John Cullen was born in Maryland and appointed keeper at Jane's Island Lighthouse on 20 April, 1853, at an annual salary of $400. He was removed 24 September, 1857. It also lists Jane's Island as part of the Fifth Lighthouse Inspection District with its superintendent district located in Baltimore.

For those out there interested in local maritime history, this would be a useful resource. So please, if you are not sure if the Research Center has something you have in mind, just ask us—we may have what you are looking for.

Salisbury STATE UNIVERSITY
Nabb Research Center for
Delmarva History and Culture
1101 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, MD 21801-6861

New Accessions

1815 Directory of Virginia Landowners, (and Gazetteer) Volume Three: Eastern Region, abstracted by Roger G. Ward.
Ambivalent Americans, The Know-Nothing Party in Maryland, Joan H. Baker.
American Patriot Quilts As Expressions of Liberty, Robert Bishop and Carter Houck.
An Evening When Alone: Four Journals of Single Women in the South 1827-1867, Michael O'Brien, ed.
And So to Sleep: Jacquard Coverlets from the Hawthorne Collection, Catherine Hawthorne.
The Atlantic Economy and Colonial Maryland's Eastern Shore From Tobacco to Grain, Paul G.E. Clemens.
Baltimore Album Quilts, Dena S. Katzenberg.
Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War, James M. McPherson.
Behind the Maryland Scene: Women of Influence, 1600-1800, National Society of the Colonial Dames of America.
Benjamin Franklin: His Life As He Wrote It, Esmond Wright, ed.
Black Laws of Virginia, June Purcell Guild.
Calvin B. Taylor, Banker: The First One Hundred Years
Capital and Credit in British Overseas Trade: The View from the Chesapeake 1700-1776, Jacob M. Price.
Captains and Mariners of Early Maryland, Raphael Semmes.
Chesapeake Landfalls, Alexander Crosby Brown.
Common Sense, Thomas Paine.
A Colonial Governor in Maryland 1753-1773, Lady Edgar (1912).
Delaware's Forgotten River, C.A. Weslager.
Delaware Heritage: The Story of Delaware in the Revolution, Charles E. Green.
Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources State of Maryland, Commission on Geology, Mines and Water Resources.
Dictionary of Virginia Biography, Volume 1: Aaroe-Blanchfield and *Classified Index of Biographies,* John T. Kneebone, et. al., eds.
Eastern Shore By Coach and Four and Other Stories, Dorothy Nebel Iharr.
Forced Founders: Indians, Debtors, Slaves and the Making of the American Revolution in Virginia, Woody Holton.
Great Speeches, Abraham Lincoln.
A History of the American Revolution, John R. Alden.
History of Sound Church Founded 1770, (Sussex County, Delaware), Sound Methodist Church
His Lordship's Patronage Offices of Profit in Colonial Maryland, Donnel M. Owings.
History of Maryland Volunteers, Vol. I & Vol. II, L. Allison Wilmer, et. al.
Homes of the Cavaliers, Katherine Scarborough.
Indians in Seventeenth-Century Virginia, Ben C. McCary.
The Intellectual Construction of America: Exceptionalism and Identity from 1492 to 1800, Jack P. Greene
Joshua Johnson's Letterbook: 1771-1774: Letters from a Merchant in London to His Partners in Maryland, Jacob M. Price, ed.
Kinney Tales and Trails Lewes-Kalamazoo-Astoria 1675-2000, Thomas G. and Scott L. Kinney.
Land Records Caroline County, Maryland, Book 7, Vol. L: 1813-1817, R. Bernice Leonard and Helen E. Seymour.
Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America, Ira Berlin.
Maps Relating to Virginia, Earl G. Swem.
Maryland Manual: 1977-1978, Edward C. Papenfuse and Frank White Jr., eds.
Maryland The Federalist Year, L. Marx Renzulli Jr.
Matthew Brady's Illustrated History of the Civil War, James M. McPherson.
Music for Patriots, Politicians, and Presidents, Vera Brodsky Lawrence.
Niles Weekly Register: September 1836-March 1837, William Ogden Niles, ed.
Old Line Traditions Maryland Women and Their Quilts, Gloria Seaman Allen.
Over the Threshold: Intimate Violence in Early America, Christine Daniels and Michael V. Kennedy, eds.
Patty Cannon Administers Justice, R.W. Messenger.
The Pilgrims and Pocahontas: Rival Myths of American Origin, Ann Uhry Abrams.
Princes of Ireland, Planters of Maryland: A Carroll Saga, 1500-1782, Ronald Hoffman.
Reconstructing the Household: Families, Sex, and the Law in the Nineteenth-Century South, Peter W. Bardaglio.
Rights of Man, Thomas Paine.
The Rise and Progress of Maryland Baptists, Joseph T. Watts.
Shore Bird Decoys, Henry A. Fleckenstein Jr.
Slave Counterpoint: Black Culture in the Eighteenth-Century Chesapeake and Low Country, Philip D. Morgan.
Some Historic Old Landmarks of Virginia and Maryland, William H. Snowden
Some Wills from the Burned Counties of Virginia, William Lindsay Hopkins.
The Story of Maryland Politics, Frank Richardson Kent.
A Time To Remember, Charles Silliman.
Virginia in Maps: Four Centuries of Settlement, Growth, and Development, Richard W. Stephenson and Marianne M. McKee, eds.
The Way of Duty: A Woman and Her Family in Revolutionary America, Joy Day Buel and Richard Buel Jr.
Whayleyville, Arthur B. Cozzens.
Women and Freedom in Early America Larry D. Eldridge, ed.
Worcester County Maryland: 1880 Census, Jody Powell.
The World They Made Together: Black and White Values in Eighteenth-Century Virginia, Mechal Sobel.



Use of Nabb Center facilities continues to increase, as shown in the first quarter of our fiscal year.

Microfilm

Republican Star Newspaper, Easton, MD (Various Dates: 1804-1832)
St. Paul's Church Vestry Records, 1694-1819 (Queen Anne & Talbot counties)
Star Democrat Newspaper (Most Dates Sept. 1974 - Feb. 1977)
Talbot County 1798: Federal Direct Act, 1-9
Talbot County, MD: Marriage Licenses, St. Michaels Parish Record and Index, 1738-1810
Talbot County, MD: Index to Births, Marriages & Deaths St. Peter's Parish Register, 1681-1806